

1189, "Commending Lance Mackey on winning a record 4th straight Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race," I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote 301, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended to H. Res. 1172, "Recognizing the life and achievements of Will Keith Kellogg," I would have voted "aye."

May 26, I was unavoidably detained on official business. I missed rollcall vote 302. I would have voted aye;

Rollcall vote 303, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 304, I would have voted "aye"; and

Rollcall vote 305, I would have voted "aye".

I rise to address the Chair regarding my absence from rollcall votes 302–305 on Wednesday, May 26, 2010.

Mr. Speaker, I was not able to cast my votes during rollcall on Wednesday, May 26, 2010, because I was away from the office on official business. I would like to state for the RECORD how I would have voted, had I been present.

For rollcall vote, 302, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1347, "Honoring the workers who perished on the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana, extending condolences to their families, and recognizing the valiant efforts of emergency response workers at the disaster site," I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote 303, on motion to suspend the rule and agree to H. Res. 1385, "recognizing and honoring the courage and sacrifice of the members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes," I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote 304, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended to H. Res. 1316, "Celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month," I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote 305, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended to H. Res. 1169, "Honoring the 125th anniversary of Rollins College," I would have voted "aye."

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL: "IT COMES DOWN TO INTEGRITY"

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, we heard all of the arguments before we had our votes yesterday on Don't Ask, Don't Tell, but in the past we heard very similar arguments. The Secretary of the Army said he was concerned about how the proposed change would affect the efficiency of the Army. A 5-star general warned of social experiments and worried that with reform in military personnel policy, we may have difficulty attaining high morale.

Those are not quotations from 2010, Mr. Speaker. Those are not quotations about the right of gay and lesbian Americans to serve openly in the military. They are from more than 60 years ago during the debate over racial integration of the Armed Forces. Does anyone believe they were right? If so, please speak up.

Is anyone prepared to argue that our military has suffered from the full participation of African Americans in its ranks? Thankfully, a majority in this body remembered this history lesson last night when we made history by voting to repeal the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, an embarrassment unworthy of a great country and a great military.

It has been responsible for the discharge of 13,000 honorable Americans, men and women who were told their services were dispensable not because of how they behaved, but because of who they are. It has done violence to cherished American values like equality, inclusion, and tolerance. And it has damaged our national security, too.

Given the military's recruitment challenges at a moment that we're still, unfortunately, fighting two wars, it is incomprehensible to me that we would reject any capable person who wishes to serve. It was particularly galling to watch as hundreds of language specialists who could speak Farsi and Arabic were dismissed just when they were needed the most, when our occupation of Iraq began.

The assertion that openly gay servicemembers would undermine unit cohesion is just bunk, Mr. Speaker. It is an argument based on fear, not fact. The research suggests that Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are comfortable serving side by side with fellow soldiers who happen to be gay or lesbian. To suggest otherwise is to insult our troops, as the author of the amendment, Mr. MURPHY, has pointed out, because it assumes our soldiers are so unprofessional, and even unpatriotic, that they would let another soldier's sexual orientation distract them from the mission.

Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, may have said it best when he said, "I cannot escape being troubled by . . . a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens. For me personally, it comes down to integrity—theirs as individuals and ours as an institution."

And last night, Mr. Speaker, it came down to our integrity, the integrity of those of us who have the privilege to serve in the people's House. I can't remember too many prouder moments during my time here, because at least we have the integrity to do what's right—to support our troops and strengthen our military by repealing the cruel and un-American Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

HONORING CORPORAL JEFFREY W. JOHNSON

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, as we go back home to our districts to honor the

veterans on Memorial Day, today I rise to honor a true American hero, Corporal Jeffrey Johnson, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

Born January 27, 1989, in Charleston, South Carolina, Jeffrey joined the Marines in July of 2007. He was killed on May 11, 2010, in the Helmand province in Afghanistan, where we have seen some of the fiercest fighting in the war as the surge moves forward to victory. He was 3 weeks into his second deployment when he was killed by an IED while on patrol.

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Corporal Johnson is a graduate of Waller High School and is now being touted in the media as a son of Tomball, Texas. Jeffrey loved Ford trucks and he loved the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. Corporal Johnson joined the military to provide education and other options. He wanted to attend the University of Texas and become either a game warden or a State trooper.

Katy Anguish, his wife, wanted people to know that Jeffrey was a creative person. He loved to have fun. I spoke to the family the day Jeffrey was brought home to his final homecoming to offer my condolences on behalf of a grateful Nation and to give them flags flown over the United States Capitol in his honor.

To his wife, Katy Anguish; his father and stepmother, Jerry and Kelly Johnson; his mother, Dawn Hardwick; sisters Ashtian Bennett and Cassidy Johnson; his brother, Jason Martin; his grandparents, Delores Campbell, Glenda Schneider, John Farmer, and Jerry Tyner, it's hard to put in words how you must feel, but know that the United States Congress and the American people are so grateful for your son's service.

Unfortunately, I have attended too many military funerals, as many Members of Congress have, but I have never seen such an overwhelming support and love in the welcoming home of this fallen hero.

He arrived by airplane from Afghanistan in Tomball, Texas. He was greeted by the marines, who carried his casket to the hearse. It reminded me of the greatness of this country. It was so inspiring to me that at a time of great tragedy and sorrow that over 30,000 people in a small town showed up to pay their respects, to show their appreciation for a man who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, to signal to the rest of the Nation that patriotism and love of country are still alive and well in America, and it restored my faith in America.

The Tomball Fire Department hung a large U.S. flag from two extended ladder trucks as Corporal Johnson's body traveled by motorcade to the funeral home. Thousands of friends, veterans, school children, and ordinary citizens, showed their support and lined the streets waving American flags. This is what it's all about.